

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 4, 2004 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the application. Claim 1 stands allowed. Claims 2-34 stand rejected.

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to because the reference numerals/characters in Figs. 1, 7, 8, 9, and 14 are not legible. Applicant accordingly submits with this amendment corrected formal drawings as replacement sheets 1-14.

Abstract Objection

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to as being too long. As stated in MPEP § 608.01(b), the abstract should be within the range of 50 to 150 words and describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need to consult the full patent text for details. The Abstract has accordingly been amended by this paper to eliminate matter not necessary under MPEP § 608.01(b) and conform to the length requirements of that section.

Claim Objections / Minor Informalities

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, 11, 15-16, 18-19, 21-22, 25, 27, and 29-32 are objected to because of various informalities as enumerated by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully traverses these objections by noting that the appropriate claims have been amended to incorporate the 23 corrections required by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Subject Matter Rejections

Claims 18 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the drawings originally filed in this application with the substitute drawings submitted herewith as replacement sheets 1-14.

applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 18 stands rejected for insufficient antecedent basis of the limitation “said vacuum means.” Claim 18 has been amended to refer to the method of claim 9 rather than the method of claim 4. Claim 9 adds an additional step to the method of claim 4 of evacuating said dielectric container using a vacuum means. This vacuum means thus forms the antecedent basis for the limitation in claim 18.

Claim 28 stands rejected for insufficient antecedent basis of the limitations “said power supply” and “said high frequency supply” in line 3. The power supply and high frequency supply referred to in the original claim 28 referenced means of accomplishing the step of energizing said gaseous substance. These two means are included in claims 10 and 11. Claim 28 has been amended herein to remove the limitation of a power supply or high frequency supply and refer instead simply to accomplishing the step of energizing said gaseous substance by using a portion of said quantum energy, thus removing the terms from claim 28 that were without antecedent basis.

In addition, claim 28 stands rejected because of the indefinite antecedent of the term “the system” in line 2. Claim 28 has been amended herein to remove both instances of the term “the system” and replace it in each case with an appropriate reference to the step of claim 4 to which the action in question applies.

Based on these amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of Claims 18 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, be withdrawn.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

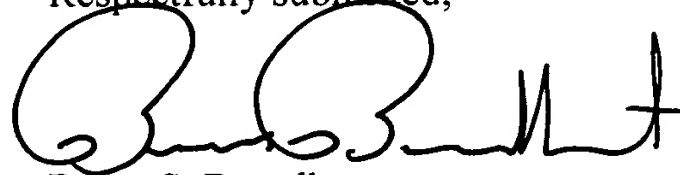
The amendments set forth above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-32 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

DATED this 1st day of December, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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